

life, family and humanity, for virtually every culture in the world. Yet what was supposed to be a joyous celebration was brutally cut short when followers of the terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi carried out four simultaneous terrorist attacks. These unbridled and hateful acts killed 59 people, including the mother and father of the bride and the father of the groom.

Mr. Speaker, the line between good and evil could not be clearer.

The line between those who cherish life versus those who seek to destroy it could not be clearer.

The line between those with compassion in their hearts versus those with hatred could not be clearer.

The attacks in Jordan, just like those before it in Indonesia, Egypt, Spain and the United States, demonstrate that terrorism does not discriminate by race, ethnicity or region. Instead, terrorists indiscriminately target those seeking to live a peaceful, loving and free life.

All across Jordan, innocent and freedom-loving Jordanians fully understand this. Thousands of Jordanians have taken to the streets in protest of Zarqawi, "the coward." In the wake of these attacks, King Abdullah has announced a "National Agenda," which seeks to instill a more free and democratic political process and society.

We must hunt the terrorists down and kill them. There is no other way to respond to those so committed to the destruction of life. We must also stand with the Jordanian people and the Jordanian Government. And, this resolution does just that—making it clear that Congress and the American people are behind them during this difficult period.

#### TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST MARK THOMPSON

#### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of my extraordinary constituents who is currently serving in Iraq. Specialist Mark Thompson from Tompkinsville, Kentucky recently wrote to me to express his thoughts on the situation in Iraq and I was truly moved by his articulate letter. I would like to share his letter with the House and I urge all of my colleagues to read Mark's letter and poem. I could not be anymore proud of Specialist Thompson and his service to our country.

OCTOBER 17, 2005.

Congressman ED WHITFIELD,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WHITFIELD: I hope this letter finds you well. Politics seems heated as usual in the States and many new challenges are facing you and our country's other leaders. However, I am sure you are taking it all as it comes and continuing to try and find the most appropriate direction as issues arise.

I am currently serving in the Army at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq. A huge change from my position as hospital administrator in Tompkinsville as you can imagine. But it has been a good experience to actually be here in this very troubled part of the World and be a part of this, first hand.

We are in the "Sunni Triangle" as this area has been described with a name. Ramadi

and Fallujah are within 10 to 15 miles of our base with us roughly in the middle. Both are noted hotbeds for insurgent activity as is this entire area of Northwest Iraq. We are experiencing much of the same that you see on TV back home.

I am sure one of those huge issues you are grappling with is what to support in regards to Operation Iraqi Freedom. I ask you to consider we are still making progress and this is a worthy cause at this point. We do far more good on a daily basis than is ever portrayed back home. Just Saturday (Day of the Voting) our troops helped a very sick 4 month old child get medical care in Baghdad. Also, we are actively training Iraqi troops to ultimately replace us and takeover complete operations of Camp Habbaniyah. Yes, there is much to be discouraged by on a regular basis but the momentum and atmosphere as a whole continues moving forward. The worst thing we can do is leave too soon and risk losing it all to civil war. At the same time we must let the Iraqi Army continue to take over responsibility for areas as soon as possible and the new government as well.

I see it like welfare. If we take on the responsibility for people too long they can literally fail to progress and be hampered by growing too dependent. We see that very real, negative potential as we work with soldiers and civilians.

The hard part is how much and when to pull back our support. I know that is something you are being challenged to help determine. Please, listen to sound military leaders as you sort that out. Please do not allow it to be a "public opinion" or "politically correct" decision. We stand to lose so much more from a bad decision. The Iraqi people stand to lose the most.

Finally, the vast majority of the people here are very worthy of what we are trying to help them achieve. It is the few that continue to make it so hard. I have attached a simple poem that I was inspired to write not long after coming here. I still believe that our primary intentions should be this simple and straight forward.

My best wishes to you as always.  
Sincerely,

SPC. MARK THOMPSON.

#### THAT IS WHY WE CAME

As we crossed the Iraqi Border,  
our lives never to be the same.  
That's when it all seemed clearer,  
why we left our families and came.

The harsh land layout before us,  
with things we have yet to see.  
But kids waving on roadsides,  
unlocked hope inside for me.

Not much do they have and own,  
but gestures that tell their soul,  
Too young yet to know true hate,  
faith, hope and love are still in control.

Who knows where freedom will take them,  
and will elders allow it to last?  
Can they hold onto it with passion,  
and never repeat the past?

It is the children we came for,  
their love should govern this land.  
Who knows where their dreams can take us,  
if not poisoned with History's Brand.

I pray tonight for a new World,  
where all kids are safe from harm.  
That these children can play like mine,  
in a neighborhood, friendly and warm.

They are the reason we came,  
their hope from faith we must let soar.  
With love let's finish the task,  
and for them leave open the door.

#### HONORING BAYLOR UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the first adult liver transplant program serving Tarrant County and Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas. In 1985, Baylor University Medical Center recruited Dr. Goran B. Klintmalm, a highly skilled surgeon to begin the new adult liver transplant program and to enhance each facility's medical and surgical capabilities.

Baylor University Medical Center has transplanted more than 4,500 organs in patients around the world. The program has been replicated at Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, allowing Baylor Health Care Systems to expand their services to Tarrant County.

I would like to honor Baylor University Medical Center, along with the doctors, nurses and hospital administration that make extraordinary organ transplants possible. Their dedication to the medical profession and their commitment to saving lives is to be commended.

#### SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KENNETH "BLUE" BALCOMB—A FIERCE DEFENDER OF WATER RIGHTS IN COLORADO

#### HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 18, 2005*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to the Balcomb family of Glenwood Springs, Colorado who recently experienced a tragic loss with the death of Kenneth "Blue" Balcomb. He passed away on November 17th.

Recently, I had the opportunity to get to know Ken. He was a brilliant, devoted and talented person. Because of his genius, water on the Western Slope of Colorado will be protected for generations. Mr. Balcomb died Thursday and will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Ken Balcomb was General Counsel for the Colorado River Water Conservation District from the early 1960s until 1981 when the District hired in-house counsel. Under Mr. Balcomb's advice and leadership, the River District successfully fought back aggressive water filings by Front Range cities and irrigation districts thirsting for West Slope water. It also fought federal intrusion into Colorado's state-run water rights system, ensuring that the federal government adjudicate its water rights like everyone else through Colorado's water courts. On this point, Mr. Balcomb represented the River District on three occasions before the U.S. Supreme Court, leaving victorious each time.

I grew to know Ken over the last year and he never hesitated to offer his experience, knowledge and assistance to myself and others.

Ken was certainly an inspiration to me and to everyone who had the opportunity to meet